AMIGA NEWS
AUSTRALASIA

SALE SPECIAL
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Suprise Amiga sale

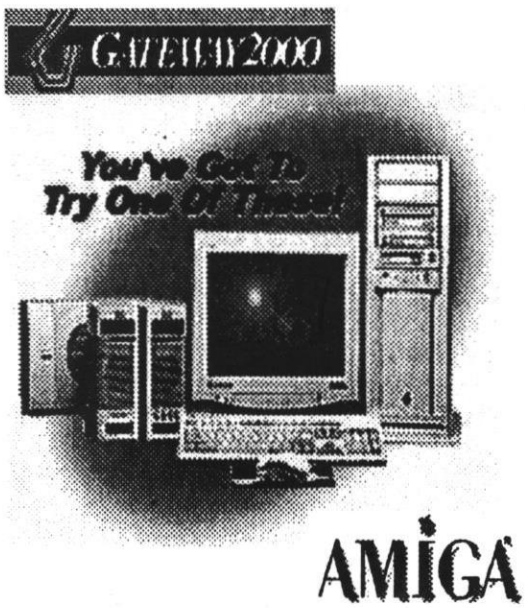
28/3/97: Gateway 2000, an international manufacturer of PCs, has announced its intention to purchase the trademarks, patents and trade names of German-based Amiga Technologies GmbH.

Amiga Technologies' parent company Escom GmbH went into bankruptcy in July 1996.

The offer has been accepted by the court-appointed liquidator, though the deal is still subject to regulatory approval by the German Government.

Amiga Technologies will be renamed Amiga International, and operate as a separate business unit to Gateway 2000. Petro Tyschtschenko will continue as the company's president, developing new products for the Amiga market.

"Gateway 2000 will give us new life and energy for the future," says Tyschtschenko.



phase 5 offers PPC R&D

3/4/97: phase 5 digital products, a German-based manufacturer of Amiga accelerators and graphics cards, has offered the new Amiga International access to its Amiga PowerPC technology.

"Once again, we are open for a technological cooperation which could result in nearly immediate availability of powerful and inexpensive new technology for the Amiga," says Wolf Dietrich, general manager of phase 5.

"A year ago, we had already started such a cooperation, before Amiga Technologies cancelled all development on their side.

"We have continued with the project we initiated, and today we are just weeks away from the release of a sensational, new-generation product.

"We will contact Amiga International in the near future to discuss the opportunities for technological exchange, and if it is wanted, we are ready for extensive cooperation for both the hardware and software sector."

phase 5 claims to have sold more than 60,000 Amiga add-on products to a value of DM 25 million since the end of 1995.

Quikpak welcomes rival

2/4/97: The manufacturer of Amiga 4000 computers, and one of the bidders for Amiga Technologies, has issued a press release welcoming Gateway 2000 as the Amiga's new owner.

"While we are understandably disappointed that our own bid was unsuccessful, we at QuikPak remain as committed as ever to the future of the Amiga," says Dan Robinson, QuikPak's director of business development.

Gateway Aust responds

We e-mailed Gateway 2000 (Australia) to see what they had to say about the buyout. In a typical corporate fashion, this is what they said:

"May we suggest you check the US Web site for the latest press release – www.gw2k.com We are a 100% subsidiary of Gateway 2000 USA so we are basically the one and same company.

"Thanks for your interest in Gateway 2000 and have a great day!"

Oh, we're having a great day all right.

Web sites

Gateway 2000
www.gw2k.com
www/gw2k.com.au

Amiga International
www.amiga.de

phase 5
www.phase5.de

Quikpak
www.amigasupport.com/quikpak

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Australian News

Aust show will go on

Megatron Electronic Industries, an Australian Amiga distributor, has renewed its commitment to staging an Australian Amiga show.

"We would like to congratulate Petro Tyschtschenko on concluding a deal that will ensure the future of the Amiga platform for many years to come," says Megatron's general manager, Bob Farrow.

"Now the uncertainty has been lifted, we can all get on with life and support Gateway 2000 and the rest of the Amiga producers, service agents and dealers in an endeavor to recapture a market that the Amiga excelled in."

Megatron says it intends to renew its efforts to push the Amiga to the forefront of the graphics community and will shortly announce the date and location of the Australian Amiga showcase.

"We hope that now the uncertainty has been lifted, the Australian dealer network will rally around Megatron to make the showcase an event to be remembered," says Farrow.

Interested parties should contact Bob Farrow at Megatron by phone on (03) 9870 4844 or by e-mail on bob@megatron.com.au

Megatron

www.megatron.com.au

Quaser Distribution

Ph (03) 9887 2411.

Australian Education Network

The Australian-based Amiga Education Network (TAEN) was established in response to Commodore Australia's demise (which preceded Commodore International's demise by a few months) as a means of supporting the Amiga platform in schools that were using it.

TAEN hopes that:

- 1997 will see the Amiga rescued.
- The new owners will appreciate the importance of the education sector and continue to provide a low cost (A1200HD-based) Amiga for this market.

TAEN invites your comments, and hopes to encourage discussion among those in the Amiga community who still have an interest in using the Amiga in education.

The Amiga Education Network

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Software reviews

PC Task Version 4

Type: Emulator
Publisher: Quaser Distribution
Requirements: 2 Mb RAM, Amiga OS 2.0 or better, 68020 or better.
Price: not stated
Availability: Australia-wide

As much as we hate to admit it, there is a hell of a lot of PC software out there, and some of it's good. *PC Task* tries to make some of this software available to Amiga users.

PC-Task is a software emulator that simulates a PC on your Amiga. Now because it's a program running on your Amiga pretending to be a 486, it's not that fast. *Shapeshifter*, the software Macintosh emulator, is able to run quite well because Amigas have the same CPUs as older Macs – the Motorola 68000 series. PCs use the Intel x86 series CPUs, and so PC-Task has the strenuous job of simulating a 486 chip – and that's what really slows down the emulation.

On our 25 MHz 030 Amiga 3000 and Cybervision we were able to achieve a usuable DOS environment. We even tried Windows 3.1, which worked, but was too slow to be usable for anything serious.

Verdict: What this software attempts to do is amazing – and given a fast 060-based Amiga with Cybervision, you may actually achieve a reasonable emulation of Windows 3.1. We'll do an update when our 060 card arrives. We'd have no qualms about using *PC-Task* for running older DOS programs that aren't too graphic intensive.

New video software

NETHERLANDS-BASED Amiga software publisher, Computer City, has advised J P Media that it intends to publish an Amiga CD-ROM, *Mike's Power Tools*, with four powerful video applications. The four programs are:

- *Navigator Titler* – a video-titling program that can render titles in 3D in realtime.
- *Navigator Wiper* – video wipe program with 3D cube effects, etc
- *Fastmorpher* – for making fast morphing effects. Resembles Kai's Power Goo.
- *Lightwalker* – Fast 'raytracer' with which the user can make Lightwave- like 3D renderings.

All the programs support the AGA chipset, but will also run on ECS Amigas.

The suggested retail price for *Mike's Power Tools* has not yet been set, but it is expected to be less than AUS$100. Dealers and users who are interested in finding out more about this product should contact J P Media as soon as possible.

Software reviews

Thanks to the companies that sent us products for review.

Tiny Troops

Type: Game
Publisher: Vulcan Software
Requirements: 1 Mb Amiga
Price: £17.99 + £2 (postage) (aprox AUST $40)
Availability: Mailorder from UK

You control an army of miniature aliens as they battle it out with their enemies in the backyards, toy rooms and beaches of earth.

Some of the tiny aliens are just foot soldiers, while others have special abilities, like being able to throw grenades.

The game starts off very simply, but within a few levels you have to start having to develop stratagies.

The game can be installed to disk, though our review copy had some disk errors, and so we couldn't try this out (though it did work from floppy).

Verdict: This is a great game – and potentially very addictive. The graphics and sound are OK, but where the game shines is when you start having to develop strategies for beating the enemy. Should you blow up the bridges before the enemy crosses them, or should you defend them and allow your team to use them?

Jet Pilot

Type: Game
Publisher: Vulcan Software
Requirements: 1 Mb Amigas (Fast RAM and 030 recommended)
Price: £16.99 + £2 (postage) (aprox AUST $38)
Availability: Mailorder from UK

Jet Pilot gets you into the cockpit of a Lockheed F-104 or an Electric Lightning.

The format of the game is much like other flight sims: you see a cockpit and the view ahead. The detail and quality of the graphics can be configured to suit your preferences and the speed (or lack of it) of your machine. There were a couple of things that concerned us about this game. The game crashed once while we were playing. There is a hard disk installation option, which didn't seem to work on our computer.

Verdict: If you're into flight simulators, this game is certainly worth looking at. Despite the program seizing during testing, overall Jet Pilot a competent game.

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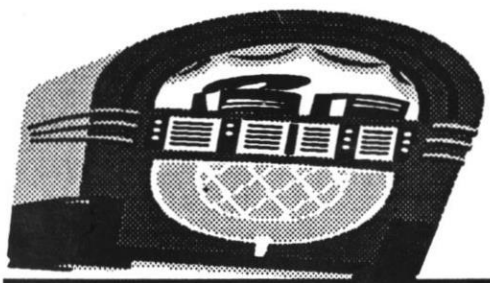

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April 7 1997

Dear fellow Amiga user,

Are you fed up with paying ridiculous prices for Amiga CD-ROMs? Are you fed up with never being offered special deals like you see in European Amiga magazines?

To celebrate the news that Gateway 2000 is buying Amiga Technologies, we're making an outstanding offer – three top Amiga CD-ROMs for $30. We guarantee you'll never find such an incredible deal in Australia – ever!

If you were to buy three similar Amiga CD-ROMs from anywhere else, you'd be paying around $80 or more. Buy now and you pay only $30 – a saving of $50!

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Yours sincerely

John Pospisil
Publisher

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April 1997

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Aminet 17 $25
Dated 2/97, with another 600 Mb.

Euro CD 2 COMING SOON $26.95

The wait is almost over. Contains the latest Amiga shareware ready to run directly from CD. Our local Amiga user group bought 12 copies of *Euro CD #1*. Expected arrival date April 21.

Meeting Pearls 4 $25

650 Mb of high-quality and well-tested software is crammed onto this CD. Different search tools (based on MUI and AmigaGuide) are supplied to make it easy to find and execute programs straight of the CD.

Aminet Set 1,2,3,4

Each Aminet set contains four CDs containing material uploaded to Aminet during different periods.Buy the four and have almost the entire Aminet within easy reach!

Aminet Set 1, 2	$55 each
Aminet Set 3, 4	$65 each
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Amiga Developer CD V1.1 $30

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